

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191848
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SP-02 MCE-00 INR-10
INRE-00 SSO-00 /043 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LEPOPE:SKG
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
-----009269 290048Z /70
O 290015Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 191848

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE ARMY REQUEST FOR 10,000 M-16S

REF: BEIRUT 4250

1. AGREE THAT THERE IS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR DELIVERING TEN THOUSAND M-16S NOW TO THE LEBANESE. WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY TO SOFTEN THE BLOW BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS. WE TOLD NEHME TODAY THAT WE COULD NOT APPROVE REQUEST NOW, BUT WOULD BE READY TO DELIVER M-16S AS NEW RECRUITS REPORT FOR DUTY IN NUMBERS NEEDED, AND THAT GOL SHOULD RESUBMIT REQUEST THEN. NEHME IS FLYING BACK TO BEIRUT TONIGHT, MAINLY TO DISCUSS HIS FUTURE WITH KHOURY. WE THINK HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO EXPLAIN THE REALITIES HERE TO KHOURY.

2. FYI. INCIDENTALLY, NEHME SAYS THAT KHOURY HAS BEEN PLEADING WITH HIM TO STAY ON IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT KHOURY
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HAS ASKED BARAKAT NOT TO TAKE OVER ANY OFFICIAL BUSINESS FROM NEHME AND NOT TO NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OR THE PENTAGON OF HIS ARRIVAL. IN OTHER WORDS, BARAKAT MAY HAVE BEEN PLACED IN OFFICIAL LIMBO AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING. END
FYI.

3. OBVIOUSLY WE WANT TO STAY OUT OF THIS MESS EXCEPT

INSOFAR AS IT AFFECTS OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE LEBANESE ON THE MILITARY PROGRAM, BUT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW NEHME HAS DONE A FIRST-RATE JOB HERE. CHAMOUNIST OR NOT, HE IS ENERGETIC, AND AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL HE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY LOYAL TO GENERAL KHOURY. IF BOUTROS IS INSISTING ON REPLACING HIM WITH BARAKAT ON THE THEORY THAT THEY ARE TWO OF A KIND, HE MAY BE CREATING MORE PROBLEMS FOR HIMSELF THAN HE KNOWS.

4. MILITARY SURVEY TEAM REPORT IS BEING PRINTED, HAVING BEEN RED-STRIPED--THE FINAL PENTAGON IMPRIMATUR. FOR REASONS I WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH, THERE WAS A DELAY BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEND IT TO YOU IN THE NEAR FUTURE. VANCE

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